said packet, and which protocol to use to encapsulate said
packet, wherein

said information handling devices are organized in
areas and all of said information handling devices within a
single said area are at least capable of recognizing and
forwarding user data packets which conform to the same one of
said protocol suites.

7. (amended) [The method of claim 5] A method for
calculating routes for sending user data packets via information
handling devices which forward data packets through a
communications network, said information handling devices
including (a) single-protocol information handling devices
capable of recognizing and forwarding only user data packets
which conform to a single protocol suite, and (b) multi-protocol
information handling devices capable of recognizing and
forwarding user data packets which conform to any one of two or
more protocol suites, comprising

using a routing protocol to automatically
predetermine whether to encapsulate a packet, at which
information handling devices to encapsulate and to decapsulate
said packet, and which protocol to use to encapsulate said
packet, wherein

[a given area may include] said network includes
(a) single-protocol information handling devices capable of
recognizing and forwarding only user data packets which conform
to a first protocol suite, (b) single-protocol information
handling devices capable of recognizing and forwarding only user

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data packets which conform to a second different protocol suite,
and (c) at least one multi-protocol information handling
[devices] <u>device</u> capable of recognizing and forwarding user data
packets which conform to at least said first and second protocol
suites.

8 $\not{9}$. (amended) The method of claim 7 $\not{8}$ wherein one of
said multi-protocol information handling devices <u>within a given</u>
<u>area of said network</u> is capable of recognizing and forwarding
user data packets which conform to every protocol suite that is
used by any other information handling device in said given area.

Please amend claims 10, 11, 13, and 17, line 1, by
deleting "5".

Please rewrite claim 22 as follows:

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$\not{22}$. (amended) [The method of claim 5] <u>A method for</u>
<u>calculating routes for sending user data packets via information</u>
<u>handling devices which forward data packets through a</u>
<u>communications network, said information handling devices</u>
<u>including (a) single-protocol information handling devices</u>
<u>capable of recognizing and forwarding only user data packets</u>
<u>which conform to a single protocol suite, and (b) multi-protocol</u>
<u>information handling devices capable of recognizing and</u>
<u>forwarding user data packets which conform to any one of two or</u>
<u>more protocol suites, comprising</u>

<u>using a routing protocol to automatically</u>
<u>predetermine whether to encapsulate a packet, at which</u>
<u>information handling devices to encapsulate and to decapsulate</u>

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